

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 19 is cancelled.

The specification has been amended, where appropriate, to recite “mass per volume” and by submission of a substitute Abstract.

Support for each specification amendment and each amended claim is found at the originally filed claims and throughout the originally filed specification.

No new matter is believed to have been added.

The objection to the specification is believed to be obviated by submission of a substitute Abstract.

The objection to Claim 5 is believed to be obviated by the amendment to Claim 5 specifying that “the at least one linear polymer represents from 3 to 25% mass per volume (m/V) of the composition.”

The objection to Claims 6-19 is believed to be obviated by cancellation of Claim 19 and the amendment of Claims 6-18 so that these claims are not multiple dependent claims.

The indefiniteness rejection of Claims 1-5 is believed to be obviated by the amendment of these claims. The claims are now drawn to a composition. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The anticipation rejection of Claims 1-4 and 20 as being unpatentable in view of Nakashio is respectfully traversed because Nakashio does not describe or suggest all of the features of the rejected claims.

Present Claims 1-4 contain the feature “wherein the composition is in the form of a suspension of solid particles of said hydrophilic crosslinked polymer in a solution of said linear polymer and the water-miscible solvent.” Applicants submit Nakashio does not describe or suggest this claim feature, and in fact, Nakashio “teaches away from” this claim feature. Nakashio, at column 2, lines 61-64, describes “an object of the present invention is

to provide a novel homogeneous polymer composition prepared by polymerizing an ethylenic compound in the presence of pullulan.” Because the composition of Nakashio is a homogeneous composition, and the composition of present Claims 1-4 is in the form of a suspension of solid particles, Nakashio cannot anticipate present Claim 1-4 and the claims depending therefrom.

Further, Applicants submit that Nakashio does not describe every feature of present Claim 20 and therefore cannot anticipate present Claim 20.

Withdrawal of the anticipation rejection is respectfully requested.

The obviousness rejection of Claims 1-5 and 20 as being unpatentable in view of Nakashio is respectfully traversed.

Present Claims 1-5 contain the feature “wherein the composition is in the form of a suspension of solid particles of said hydrophilic crosslinked polymer in a solution of said linear polymer and the water-miscible solvent.” Applicants submit Nakashio does not describe or suggest this claim feature, and in fact, Nakashio “teaches away from” this claim feature. Nakashio, at column 2, lines 61-64, describes “an object of the present invention is to provide a novel homogeneous polymer composition prepared by polymerizing an ethylenic compound in the presence of pullulan.” Because the composition of Nakashio is a homogeneous composition, and the composition of present Claims 1-5 is in the form of a suspension of solid particles, Nakashio does not describe or suggest every feature of present Claims 1-5; and in fact, Nakashio “teaches away from” a feature of these claims. Nakashio cannot therefore render obvious present Claims 1-5.

Further, Applicants submit Nakashio does not describe or suggest every feature of present Claim 20.

Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is respectfully requested.

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Applicants submit the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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